

to consider the subject, spoke long, almost alone, to induce them to insist on a nearer approach. Many must have lamented since then that they allowed themselves to be so hoodwinked as to be unable to see the true state of the case, or, if they did see it, to be silent.

The new street, which was in consequence required to lead to the station, is a curious specimen of *alignement*, as the French call it, and shows greedily the want of supervision on the part of the corporation. To render the formation of the street necessary by stopping the high road—the railway—short of its destination, was a great absurdity; but not to see that this street was made properly, and with a view to the convenience and ornament of the town, shows a want of foresight, and almost a want of sense on the part of authorities which really deserves reprobation. It twists and turns about in all sorts of ways, without the slightest reason, so far as we could learn, and, instead of tending to the improvement of the place, as it ought to have been made to do, is a positive disfigurement, or rather series of disfigurements.

This is the more to be regretted and wondered at, because much has been done here recently in a right direction, and the town is increasing greatly in size and apparently in prosperity. Many of the shops recently built or altered display taste; the new custom-house mentioned by us before this, has some good features, though not without flaws, and the docks have been greatly extended and improved.

A walk through the town has much to interest. There are many curiously carved and ornamented houses, remnants of the past. One, known as Mr. Sparrow's, the date of which is 1507, is a remarkable and well-known specimen. The connection of Ipswich with Wolsey is recalled, when wandering through the town, by a brick gateway erected by him, and now in need of repair; and the river Gipping, on which the town is seated, suggests the origin of the name of the place, which was anciently written Gippeswid, or Gippeswic, and afterwards Yppyswyche.

The churches in the town, of which there are several, are mostly of the perpendicular period, and have been sadly disfigured by repairs and restorations. The church of St. Mary at Elms has a Norman south door; St. Margaret's has a very handsome clerestory, externally, of late character, and a curious open roof,—one of the latest; the Key Church, as it is called (St. Mary's) displays some tolerable flint-work; and in the church of St. Nicholas there are some very curious sculptures, the decorations of an earlier building, which were discovered during recent repairs. These are described by Dr. Drummond, in the papers of the "Suffolk Archaeological Association," where drawings of them by Dr. Edward Clarke are given. Mr. Waller and others, qualified to judge, have considered them Saxon. They did not seem to us, however, to differ in any respect from some works of the same kind known to be of the Norman period.

Amongst other improvements in St. Nicholas's, the interior has been wholly reeased by Mr. Ringham, an able wood carver in the town, whose reputation is very justly extending. We saw in his workshops an oak lectern, pulpit, and altar rail, in progress, which were highly creditable to him.

At St. Helen's, an old church, where the flint and stone work have been restored externally, a slight, ugly, queen post roof has been put up, to the great disfigurement of the building and the impeachment of the taste of all the parties concerned in the work.

A museum has recently been established, and is making satisfactory progress; and there is a mechanics' institution, which has been in operation about five-and-twenty years, and has produced good fruits. There was a proposal some time since to build new premises for its purposes, but nothing has yet been done in this respect. This institution has an extensive library, and should be heartily backed up by all interested in the well-being of the town.

After examining Mr. Hurwood's ingenious arrangements for windows and greenhouses,

illustrated last week, we took the opportunity to see the process of manufacturing Messrs. F. Ransome and Parson's patent artificial stone. In this, sands of various colours and degrees of coarseness are combined into a mass by flint or silica, brought into a semi-fluid state by subjecting it to the action of caustic alkali, in a boiler at a high temperature under pressure. The artificial stone, after being moulded to the required form, is submitted in a kiln to a gradually increasing temperature up to a red heat. It seems calculated to be durable, and it was proposed, in the first instance, to apply it in the production of all varieties of architectural decorations. The feeling of the time, however, is opposed to imitative cast-work, and at this moment, strange to say, the application of the material is nearly confined to the production of whetstones for scythes, and a patent water-purifier, and these are required in such numbers as to occupy the whole establishment.

In connection with the docks, we observed with no common gratification that an extensive piece of land, beautifully placed and commanding a charming view, has been planted and laid out as a public walking place, mainly through the influence, as we understand, of Mr. Alexander, a leading inhabitant of the town. All who have aided in this work have entitled themselves to the thanks not merely of their fellow-townsmen but their fellow-countrymen—of all who recognise the value of open areas for recreation and enjoyment, and regret the miserable deficiency of them observable in our towns generally.

We should be glad to see some of the principal inhabitants form themselves into an Improvement Society, or Board of Adornment; or some existing body might extend their purposes so as to effect the object in view. Even if they had no power to control individuals, they might do much good, by pointing out evils to be avoided and improvements which might be made, keeping a watchful eye on every step taken, and omitting no opportunity to lead public opinion in the right way. At the present moment numbers of small houses are being built in Ipswich, enclosing and damaging it, and will be found hereafter to present vexatious obstacles to the extension of the good quarters.

In a sanitary point of view, much is needed in Ipswich, and so fully was this felt by many of the inhabitants, that an engineer (Mr. H. Austin) was employed some time ago to report on the state of the town, and advise as to the improvements necessary. This was done, but from some cause or other the report did not exactly take the inhabitants with it, and nothing has been proceeded with. The drainage is bad, the paving worse, and the supply of water so ill regulated, that while thousands of gallons are constantly seen rushing down the streets to waste, producing annoyance, if not doing positive injury, many of the poorer inhabitants obtain it only with great difficulty.

It is to be hoped that steps for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town will no longer be delayed; and with the expression of this opinion we end our present memorandum in Ipswich.

PATENT METHOD OF FACING WITH STONE.

THE description of Mr. Taylor's invention, in last week's BUILDER, professes to avoid the objections hitherto existing against erecting brickwork with a stone facing, arising from the subsidence of the numerous mortar joints, in the former, compared with the latter; by which the stone facing unavoidably becomes injuriously weighted, and the crushing of the bed joint is the result: a very reasonable conclusion to arrive at, as far as theory alone is concerned; but, with here and there an exception,* the mode of constructing brick walls with a stone facing, is the same now as it has been time out of memory; the two trades go on simultaneously; as soon as the mason has fixed a course of stones, the bricklayer backs it up immediately after. If this method is known to be objectionable, why continue to

practise it? why do ninety-nine architects out of a hundred adopt a plan likely to crush the bed joints of the stone? I have practically examined the stonework of the principal buildings in London, and have travelled extensively through the provinces for a similar object; yet I cannot recollect an instance of crushing, arising from the shrinking of mortar joints, not even where the most friable stone, such as that of Bath or Caen, has been used: occasionally the stone is fractured by iron cramps injudiciously inserted, as may be seen in many parts of Sir C. Wren's church at Greenwich; but this has nothing whatever to do with the subject of Mr. Taylor's patent. Buildings faced with stone are generally of a superior class, and it rarely happens that they are carried up faster than an average of two courses of bricks per day; so that an elevation 50 feet high would occupy three or four months in erection. No appreciable shrinkage takes place after the greater portion of moisture has been absorbed from the mortar, which, if the bricks are tolerably dry, becomes solidified in a few days, although induration occupies an infinitely longer time. Whatever the subsidence may be, it takes place within a week or ten days after the mortar, in a semi-fluid state, has been applied in the wall, and long before any considerable weight of masonry can be fixed, which is likely to fracture the bedding joints of the stones beneath.

* The main object of the patent is to *cheapen* the application of stone, so that it may be used instead of cement.

PROPOSAL RELATIVE TO THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONTENTS OF SEWERS, AND PROTECTION OF THE RIVER FROM POLLUTION.

IN the discussions which are now going on as to the best system of preventing pollution of the river Thames, and turning the contents of the metropolitan sewers to some practical advantage, a vast number of suggestions have been made, but none of them have been as yet, it would appear, of a sufficiently simple and useful character to meet with the approbation of the parties appointed to consider the important subject.

It will, I hope, be excused, if a party, not altogether scientific, should venture to suggest a plan; as, although very imperfect, it may give rise to better ideas on the subject. Moreover, when we consider that many suggestions, some emanating from experienced practical engineers, have been found inapplicable, either from the greatness of the expense, or from the impossibility of adapting the schemes to the necessities of the case, does it not become the more important that any proposals should be received and considered, in order to give a better chance for the development of some new light upon the subject?

These remarks are made, not from any confidence that the writer is about to propose anything new—quite the reverse—but from a conviction that, in a matter so interesting and so deeply involving the health and comfort of an immense and increasing population, every liberty should be given to the inventive mind to exercise its ingenuity, and every consideration be paid to suggestions, however far-fetched and remote from practicability they may be.

The construction of branches parallel with the river, carrying the contents of the sewers towards Limehouse and Deptford, would demand too great an outlay, to be found sufficiently remunerative, besides interfering with property and business to an injurious extent.

A party has suggested that the contents of the sewers should be conveyed down the bed of the river by means of pipes, but this obviously presents difficulties, which a little reflection will show to be insurmountable. A variety of other suggestions has been made.

Taking into consideration the fact of the impossibility of uniting all the sewers in one or two main sewers running eastward—or indeed of uniting several of them together without considerable difficulty and expense—it seems to be necessary that each main sewer should have its contents collected separately, and distributed according to some simpler plan.

Can the following suggestions be made of any use?

At the end of each of the main sewers shall

* At the British Museum, the brickwork was completely erected, and the stone facing afterwards fixed to the walls with cramps.